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Subject: Memorandum from President
OSORIO of El Salvador to President
SOMOSA of Nicaragua Relative to Present
Position of Guatemala

Place Acquired: []

Evaluation: B-Documentary

Source: Nicaraguan Official

Report No: L 1043

Date of Information: Undated

Date Acquired: 20 May 1954

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1. The following is a translation of a memorandum furnished by President Oscar OSORIO of El Salvador to President Anastasio SOMOSA of Nicaragua

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION RELATIVE TO GUATEMALA

From a Guatemalan military source I have obtained news which because of its importance should not be underestimated, and on the contrary should be given the greatest attention. This person assures me that the intellectual part of the attempt against General Somosa was carried out by elements of the government of that country, and this same information has been indirectly confirmed through Nicaraguan exiles who live in Guatemala. The reason Arbenz and his cohorts have acted thus, he says, results from the fact that they are fully convinced that General SOMOSA wants to overthrow them in connivance with Idigoral FUENTES and Castillo ARNAS. The help which they gave to the Nicaraguan Legionnaires was given with two conditions: first, that the name of Guatemala would not be mentioned, and second that once the movement in Nicaragua was successful they would throw themselves immediately against Honduras, where Major Francisco MORAZAN (Private Secretary to President ARBENZ) would be made president. The Legionnaires accepted these conditions and therefore received a large amount of money and some arms which these same Legionnaires stored in various parts of Guatemala. The same person said that several elements of the Legion spoke with Figueres in order to explain the plan to him and to inform him that the arms for use in Nicaragua were brought from Mexico, since Guatemala, for all of the fact that it viewed the movement with great sympathy, had to maintain a position of strict neutrality in view of its international difficulties; Figueres gave his consent to all of this when he was assured that the movement would not start from the frontier, but from within Managua itself.

The legionnaires were leaving in small groups, some for Honduras and others directly for Costa Rica; the arms were carried by Colonel Rivas MONTES, high employee of Aviacion, in two cargo airplanes with the full knowledge of the Costa Rican government. The same MORAZAN made two trips to Costa Rica in order to coordinate the action; his wife who is Nicaraguan passed the correspondence to the interior of Nicaragua. They assured me that a few days before the departure of the legionnaires from Guatemala, President Arbenz met with them in the Chalet of Alfonso MARTINEZ, where he wished them the best of luck (one of the dead legionnaires was a brother-in-law of Martinez); at this meeting Arbenz was informed that all went well, that they had been successful in buying some officers of the Guardia and that all the arms were in Managua or vicinity; Arbenz reiterated again that they had all his help for producing the death of General Somosa. They repeatedly toasted the fall of the governments of Nicaragua and Honduras and to the future president of Honduras, MORAZAN. Rivas MONTES

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and MORAZAN referred to the situation of El Salvador; Argenz said that he was sure that El Salvador was not in condition to move a finger in defense of Honduras and Nicaragua, that he believed that President OSORIO would only defend himself if he were attacked, but that in any event on the success of the revolutions of Honduras and Nicaragua, the situation of El Salvador would be extremely difficult; that Guatemala would have in the near future ten or twelve bombers, which in one attack could immobilize El Salvador completely.

In attempting to determine from the same person the source of the arms and planes, he told me that they were infiltrating Hungarian, Swiss and Czechoslovakian arms under the nose of the Yankees. He said that the planes were obtained from Russian Czechoslovakia, which in my opinion is true since I am absolutely certain that several Guatemalan commercial houses are advertising commercial airplanes made behind the iron curtain."

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